

2016

## *Stanly County Soil and Water Conservation District*



# Annual Report

The Stanly County Soil and Water Conservation District proudly presents our 2016 Annual Report. Partnering with local, state and federal governments, we offer cost sharing opportunities and economic incentives to Stanly County land-owners, with an emphasis on educating the public about conservation practices. We believe conservation education nurtures an attitude of good stewardship in the hearts and minds of children who will be future caretakers of our natural resources.

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was a year of much progress towards preserving our precious soil and water resources. However, much work remains to be done. We are confident that the upcoming year will bring us even closer to our goal of making all citizens of Stanly County more aware of how important our resources are to our existence and of the programs and services available to them through our office.

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District



The Stanly SWCD Board of Supervisors hold regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the AgriCivic Center in Albemarle, NC. The meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in conservation is encouraged to attend. Any change in meeting dates is posted at the SWCD office and on our website, [www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water](http://www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water).

### *Mission Statement*

*The mission of Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide education, information and technical assistance to citizens of Stanly County for the conservation of our soil and water resources.*

## History of Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District



I, THAD EURE, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, in compliance with Section 14 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, do hereby certify that an application for the creation of a soil conservation district has been filed by the duly appointed supervisors of the STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT in the office of the Secretary of State, said district being one of five such districts formed out of the BROWN CREEK SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, the latter having been organized and having filed appropriate documents in this office on August 14, 1937; that the name STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT does not conflict with and is not deceptively similar or identical to that of any other soil conservation district in this State; that there is attached to said application a statement by the Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, all of which have been examined and are found to comply with the requirements set forth in the said Section 14 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes providing for the dividing of large soil conservation districts into two or more districts; and that the organization of STANLY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT has been duly completed incident to its being constituted a governmental subdivision of this State and a body corporate and politic, all as provided in the Act herein before referred to.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal.

DONE IN OFFICE at Raleigh, this 16th day of October, 1961.



Secretary of State

“In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. Thousands of “dust refugees” left the black fog to seek better lives. But the storms stretched across the nation. They reached south to Texas and east to New York. Dust even sifted into the White House and onto the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Because nearly three-fourths of the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. Brown Creek Soil

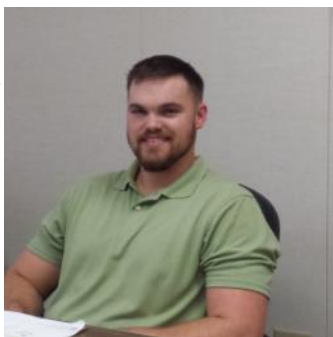
& Water Conservation District in North Carolina was the first district established. The movement caught on across the country with district-enabling legislation passed in every state. Today, the country is blanketed with nearly 3,000 conservation districts.”  
from <http://www.nacdnet.org>

The rest, as they say, is history. Our history. The Brown Creek District included Anson, Stanly, Union, Montgomery and Richmond Counties. “On June 28, 1961, the State Soil Conservation Committee approved the application to divide the Brown Creek District into five one-county districts. On the basis of the information contained in the petition, the State Committee has determined the operation of the Stanly Soil Conservation District to be administratively practicable and feasible.” David S. Weaver, Chairman of the North Carolina State Conservation Committee, to J. T. Mabry of Norwood.

As can be seen in the document above, Thad Eure, Secretary of State, signed into being the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District on October 16, 1961

## New Faces at Stanly SWCD

**Clint Brooks** joined the District this year as the new Ag Cost Share Technician. Clint is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology. He was employed by NC State University before taking a position with Mecklenburg County as a natural Resource specialist. His favorite pastimes include hunting, fishing, trapping and farming. He and his wife Kasey reside in Locust.



**Robyn Amie** spent her summer as a soil conservation student intern for USDA NRCS. Robyn is a senior Agriculture Economics major from Atlanta, Georgia. She attends Fort Valley State University. Located in Fort Valley, Georgia, it is an 1890 land grant institution. Robyn plans to work for the Natural Resource Conservation Service after graduation.

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

### NRCS Appoints New Soil Conservationist...

Charles Dunevant is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School and Western Carolina University. He has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation & Management.

He previously worked as a Watershed Technician at the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District, then as the Resource Conservationist at Brown Creek SWCD. Most recently, he was the SWCD Director in Union County.

Charles currently holds the position of NRCS Soil Conservationist.



## No-Till Corn Yield Winner

### River Hill Farms

**Kevin Baucom** was the winner of the no-till corn contest this year. Their yield was 269.39 bushels per acre on a farm in Stanly County. Kevin and his family live in Marshville, NC



### District Supervisors

**Terry Blalock**

Chairman

**John Pickler**

Vice-Chairman

**Jody Smith**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Curtis Furr**

Supervisor

**Aaron Burleson**

Supervisor

### Board Advisor

W. Chester Lowder

### District Staff

**Clint Brooks**

Cost Share Technician

**Rita Little**

Administrative Education  
Coordinator

### NRCS Staff

**Chris Childers**

Conservation Planner

**Charles Dunevant**

Soil Conservationist

**Lin Taylor**

Civil Engineer  
Technician

## District Funding

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Local districts, such as Stanly Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), receive funding from federal, state and local governments and independent fund-raising efforts. Funding sources include:

**Local:** Stanly SWCD receives funding from the Stanly County government which includes appropriations for office space, personnel, equipment, training and supplies.

**State:** North Carolina provides technical and administrative assistance and some equipment through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Financial assistance is also provided by the State and administered by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission with staff assistance from the Division. Funding is available through:

- Matching funds to Soil and Water Districts
- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

**Federal:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service provides Stanly SWCD with personnel, technical assistance and equipment in support of district conservation programs. This assistance comes through federally initiated conservation programs implemented through the local districts.

**Independent Fund-Raising:** Stanly SWCD sells pine tree seedlings once a year and rents a no-till drill to help fund education and conservation materials. Newsletter ads are also sold to help defray the cost of printing our quarterly newsletter.

All funds received by a district are public monies. As a governmental body, Stanly SWCD properly administers and accounts for all funds.

## Complimentary District Services

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Each year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District provides numerous services to local producers and the general public at no cost. These services include but are not limited to:

- Soil sample boxes and information
- Burning permits
- Writing waste utilization plans
- Creating and updating certified conservation plans
- Resource conservation consultations
- Field Days and Ag Awareness Day
- Educational presentations for school age children and civic organizations
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The SWCD also provides technical assistance to producers looking to update or retrofit best management practices on their farms.



## Public Information Initiatives

**Newsletter**- The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District publishes a quarterly newsletter in January, April, July and October. Total circulation for each issue is approximately 400. The newsletter provides information about District activities as well as programs available through various agencies. Advertising opportunities are available for businesses and individuals by purchasing ad space. The ads print in every newsletter which is also posted on our District website [www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water](http://www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water) Newsletters may also be received by email. To sign up, contact us at [rlittle@stanlycountync.gov](mailto:rlittle@stanlycountync.gov).

**Local Newspaper** - Much of the District's success is dependent upon local newspaper coverage and communications. The District is very appreciative of the excellent cooperation from the Stanly News and Press and the Weekly Post. This is an excellent way to stay informed of Soil and Water programs and opportunities.

## Partners in Conservation

The District is charged with the responsibility of educating citizens, promoting soil and water conservation, and establishing conservation programs in the county. This task would not be possible without the cooperation of other agencies and local units of government. We would like to thank the following agencies for their services and support:

- Stanly County Board of Commissioners
- Stanly County Manager and administrative personnel
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- NC Cooperative Extension Service
- NC Forest Service
- Stanly AgriCivic Center Staff
- Rural Economic and Community Development Service
- NC Division of Soil and Water
- NC Association of Soil and Water Districts
- NC Department of Agriculture
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Stanly County Schools
- Area VIII Soil and Water Conservation Districts



### Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors

**Crop Production Services**

**Stanly County Farm Bureau**

**First Bank**

**Bank of NC**

**Southern States Agronomy Service**

**B.B. Oil, Inc.**

**Culp Lumber Company**

**Uwharrie Bank**

**Enterprise Rendering**

**Mauney Feed Mill**

**Newport Landowner Services**

**Uwharrie Investment Advisors**

## NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Year 2016

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The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$56,732 for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), \$32,500 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and \$3,628 for the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). All in all, the District received \$92,860 from the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water in 2016.

### **Program Year 2016 \$92,860 allocated**

#### Agriculture Cost Share (ACSP) - 5 contracts written

1	Cropland Conversion	\$10,672
2	Livestock Exclusion	\$41,819
1	Pasture Renovation	\$ 1,800
1	Incinerator	\$ 2,425
	Returned to Division	\$ 16



#### Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP) - 2 contracts written

1	Water Supply Pond	\$27,500
1	Pond Sediment Removal	\$ 5,000



#### Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

Returned to the Division	\$ 3,628
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The District performed spot checks on 11% of existing North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share contracts. Three waste management systems were checked and found to be compliant.. Six farms were checked for nutrient management and all were found to be compliant.

## Voluntary Agricultural District

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The Stanly SWCD assists the Agricultural Advisory Board with the administration of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD). In 2016, an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) was recommended by the Advisory Board and approved by the Stanly County Commissioners. Total acreage, as of July 31, 2016, in the Voluntary Agricultural District in Stanly County is 14,501.54 with 70 farms participating.

## Ag Cost Share Programs Available

Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement four cost share programs, all of which share a common goal of increasing water quality. These programs include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Received applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is provided assistance to install best management practices.

**ACSP**-The major cause of water quality problems in the area is non-point source pollution. Damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial resources to local producers to aid in the installation of various best management practices.

**AgWRAP**-Water quantity concerns are also a point of focus for the District. The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was recently created in order to address these issues. Producer concerns include water to be used for cropland irrigation, and livestock watering. Multiple best management practices are available to assist producers increase their water use efficiency, availability and storage.

**CCAP**-Nonpoint source pollution stemming from non agricultural sources is also addressed through cost share programs. The Community Conservation Assistance Program is available to address water quality issues that are present in urban, suburban and rural areas. Assistance is available to implement best management practices which address and increase overall water quality.

**CREP**-Lastly, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is available to protect environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pasture land long term. This is accomplished through 10, 15, and 30 year conservation easements.



**Animal Waste Storage Structure**



**Cistern**



**Lagoon Closure - After**



**Lagoon Closure - Before**



**Livestock Exclusion**



**Cattle Water Tank**



# Education Programs and Initiatives

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## Agriculture Awareness Days

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Stanly County is a rural community, yet many youth are unaware of the source of their food and fiber. Stanly SWCD participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Agriculture Awareness Days, hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension, to educate local students about the different aspects of agriculture and the environment of Stanly County. There were twelve hands-on stations, correlated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Essential Standards, for nearly 700 students to rotate through over the course of the three days.



## Educational Outreach

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### *Investing in our future, our children...*

It is the responsibility of each individual citizen to be good stewards of our natural resources. The main focus of Soil & Water Districts is to educate people of all ages about conservation practices that will ensure these resources will be available for generations to come. This year, the targeted grade levels were PreK through sixth grade in the public, private, parochial and home schools of Stanly County. Soil composition and conservation, along with water conservation presentations are available for both school and civic groups. A total of 3219 students participated in soil and water conservation presentations and activities this year.

The District sponsored a poster contest for fifth grade, a computer-generated slideshow (PowerPoint®) contest and essay contest for sixth grade. The theme for the contest was “We All Live in a Watershed.” Students were encouraged to research watersheds and their importance to our environment.

#### Poster Contest

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Cole Sinnett

Badin Elementary

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Mary Grace Caudle

Badin Elementary

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Sophie Waller

Millingport Elementary

Cole’s poster went on to win 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Area VIII Competition.

#### PowerPoint®

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Robbie Dales

Academy of Wisdom,  
Character and Knowledge

Robbie’s PowerPoint® went on to win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Area VIII competition and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the State Competition.

#### Essay

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Riley Smith

Albemarle Middle School



## Annual Education Awards Banquet

The Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual awards banquet February 29, 2016 at the AgriCivic Center in Albemarle. The purpose of the banquet is to reward the winners of the educational contests sponsored by the District, as well as recognize the Conservation Farm Family and the No-Till Corn Yield winner. Those present at the banquet included contest winners, District and NRCS employees, SWCD Supervisors, Stanly County Commissioners, principals and teachers, and guests of participants. Other agencies represented at the banquet were Farm Service Agency, NC Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Stanly News and Press.



Conservation Farm Family 2016



Poster winners: (l-r) Mary Grace Caudle, Cole Stinnett, Sophie Waller



Riley Smith, Essay winner



Robbie Dales, 2nd place State PowerPoint winner



Cole Stinnett, 3rd place Area winner

## Envirothon 2016

The Envirothon is a competition for teams of middle and high school students sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

The curriculum is fun and hands-on, combining in-class studies with outdoor training. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process where learning styles emphasize higher order thinking skills such as analysis and interpretation.

The intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. Scores determine winning placements. Area winners advance to the State level.

The Envirothon helps develop environmentally aware citizens who are able to assume future leadership roles.

The Creation Explorers Middle School team took 2nd place in the Area VIII event. The members are Ethan Wilkins, Stephen Martin, Amelia Martin, Hope Hyatt and Cheyenne McGhee. This team placed 3rd in the State.



The Yellow Poplars Middle School team won 3rd place in the Area and 5th in the State. Members include Maddie Davis, Bethany Dales, Will Philips, Tony Rogers, Dalton Eury, Robbie Dales and Ethan Loughlin.



The Yellow Poplars High School team won 2nd place at the Area VIII Envirothon and 3rd in the State. Members of the team are Mallory Rogers, Amber Stiller, Lydia Dales, Lexie Burns and Erik Conrad.



## Conservation Farm Family 2016

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Each year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as all other districts in the state, selects an outstanding farm to be recognized as the Farm Family for the district. In order to be selected for the honor a farm must be actively implementing sound conservation practices as well as being actively involved in conservation education.

This year the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District chose Shelly Smith Farms as the 2016 Conservation Farm Family of the Year. The farm, owned and operated by Shelly Smith and his son Jarrett Smith, implements many best management practices that help to combat against soil and water loss and degradation. Practices include continuous no-till, the use of cover crops and other technologies, such as GPS precision planting and fertilization regiments. Also with the farm being

an operational dairy of approximately 190 head, nutrient management is vital to the farm's management decisions. They have an elaborate plan to help manage all the nutrients coming from the farm. Other best management practices used to ensure quality milk production include a covered holding lot with fans and bedding that is tilled twice a day in order to kill bacteria. On the farm, many other practices are done on a daily basis to ensure quality along with conservation.



## Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)

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The RCW is a unique opportunity for a week of intensive study and hands-on conservation activities. Students are required to submit an application and are chosen for participation by the Stanly SWCD District Supervisors. Rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Students are housed in NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. The primary objective of the workshop is to learn about natural resources and their management in today's environment. The District provides sponsorship which pays for registration, lodging, food and travel.

**Griffin Huneycutt and Lexie Burns** were chosen to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop which was held June 26-July 1, 2016.



Griffin is a rising senior at West Stanly High School. He is the son of Rodney and Janet Huneycutt of Albemarle, NC.

Lexie is a rising junior and the daughter of Timothy and Susanne Burns of Albemarle, NC.





## New Soil & Water District Supervisor

Aaron Burleson, the District's newest Supervisor, was sworn in on April 14, 2016. Aaron was recommended for appointment by the current District Supervisors. The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission approved Mr. Burleson's appointment to fill an unexpired term ending on December 1, 2016.

A graduate of Pfeiffer University, he is a General Partner of Thurman Burleson and Sons Farm, a family owned and operated farm since the 1940's. Aaron brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the position.

He and his wife Amanda have three children and reside on Kendall's Church Road in Richfield.



## Agri Civic Center Day

Stanly County celebrated its agricultural heritage on August 20, 2016 at the sixth annual AgriCivic Center Day. The celebration featured modern and antique farm equipment, agriculture and livestock exhibits, historic and cultural heritage exhibits, food vendors, live entertainment, art exhibits and more. Many local sponsors contributed to the success of the event. Children had choices of bounce houses, corn pits, face painting, balloon animals, pony rides, gold panning and more. This event helps bring attention to and gather support for the Stanly County AgriCivic Center and the services they provide to the residents of Stanly and surrounding counties.

The District presented information on the advantages of becoming a part of the Voluntary or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District of Stanly County.

The Friends of the Stanly County AgriCivic Center is a nonprofit organization.



## Tree Seedling Sales Support Conservation Education

The District sells tree seedlings to the public each year in January. Loblolly, white pine, red cedar and persimmon were sold for windbreaks, erosion control, farm enhancement and home landscaping. Over 2000 seedlings were sold this year.

## No Till Drill Rentals

Stanly SWCD owns a Truax 88 seed drill that enables landowners to plant seed without tilling the soil, thus improving soil health and decreasing erosion. During fiscal year 2016, the drill was used 31 times on a total of 410.6 acres. The drill was purchased through a grant from the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation in 2008. The maintenance expenses for the drill in 2016 were \$550.96 with an income of \$4830.46. The proceeds from drill rentals helped fund the District's education programs.





**STANLY  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

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[http://  
stanlycountync.gov/soil-  
and-water](http://stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water)

*Soil and Water  
~ Yours for life.*

**North Carolina Foundation for  
Soil & Water Conservation, Inc.**



## USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).

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*The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.*

*- Franklin D. Roosevelt*